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BRITISH TOMMIES IN ACTION AGAINST ARABS

Bollaert Given Full Power

Indo-China Peace Negotiations

Paris, Dec. 23.—The French Cabinet gave High Commissioner Emile Bollaert full powers today to negotiate peace in Indo-China—so long as he does not deal with the insurgent Viet Nam government of Ho Chi-minh.

Bollaert returned to Paris last week after a conference with Bao Dai, exiled former Emperor of Annam. Annam is one of the five Indo-Chinese states.

French President Vincent Auriol announced today the Cabinet had received messages of support from the Kingdoms of Cambodia and Laos. A French-supported government exists in Cochinchina, another of the states.—Associated Press.

New Political Party Move

Tokyo, Dec. 23.—Usually well-informed Japanese sources said today that 24 Diet members of the Social Democratic Party will quit the party before January 15 and launch a movement for a new party organization against the Katsurama Cabinet.

The Social Democratic Party is at present the strongest in the House of Representatives with 140 members enabling the election of Tetsu Katayama, Chairman of the Social Democratic Party, as Premier last June in the Diet's first implementation of the new constitution.

Informed sources said the majority of the people's Cooperative Party with 32 Diet members was likely to join the new party.

One of the new party's strongest supporters is former Agriculture and Forestry Minister Hirano, also a Social Democrat member whom the premier dismissed a month ago on account of alleged lack of co-operation with the Cabinet.—United Press.

BA MAW FREED

Rangoon, Dec. 23.—Former Premier Ba Maw was released today after four and a half months in jail. He had been held on suspicion of complicity in the assassinations of U Aung San and other leading Burmese Ministers.

Ba Maw told he had been kept in solitary confinement under "unpleasant conditions." He appeared on behalf of U Saw, another former Premier, charged with abetting the killings.—Associated Press.

EDITORIAL

The Christmas Message

THE Christmas season, with its oft-repeated theme of peace on earth, with goodwill towards men, is here again. The season, as well as the sentiments it evokes, are welcome because, even if there is little visible evidence either of international peace or goodwill, Christmas does at least promote the desire for both: is a reminder that the world needs an inspiration to achieve either. Originally, and still to many, essentially a religious festival, Christmas, over the centuries has given way to more secular celebrations—of feasting and "jolly-making." Nevertheless it has succeeded in retaining one characteristic—permeation of the spirit and actions of kindness, and in the face of a world still torn by suffering and set at naught by political differences, the people continue to believe in the promise of the angels of "peace on earth among all men of goodwill." Only the unconvertible Scrooges deny the spirit of Christmas, the period when the world will give way to service for others, and they are scorned, and justly so, by their fellow men. Nevertheless, until the daily-awakened selfishness of Christmas can be sustained through the twelve months that follow, they must lose all their meaning and become relegated to the ephemeral state of a sentimentalism. If the Christmas message can help the

AID BILL SIGNED

Washington, Dec. 23.—President Truman signed here today the United States appropriation bill providing \$322,000,000 emergency aid to France, Italy and Austria.

The measure, passed in the closing hours of the special session of Congress last Friday, also appropriates \$18,000,000 for China relief.

The only important specification in the plans for stop-gap aid has been caused by the \$57,000,000 cut in the original request of President Truman, upon which Congress insisted.

Decisions on where the programme is to be further "shaved" will not be made without consultation with the countries concerned.

The post-UNRRA relief programme has provided shipments to Italy and Austria through December and aid officials here are now concentrating on January shipments.—Reuter.

OBSTRUCTED BY SOVIETS

Hamburg, Dec. 23.—Jakob Kaiser, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany, and Dr. Ernst Lemmer, joint chairman of the party in the Soviet Zone, "removed from office" last week on Russian orders, said in Berlin today that only a party congress in Berlin, convened according to the party's regulations and free to make a decision, could decide whether they were to remain in office.

The statement was issued by the party's headquarters in the Soviet sector of Berlin.

In his statement, Herr Kaiser declared that he and Lemmer were "obstructed by the interference of the Soviet military administration" in fulfilling their tasks and responsibilities for the Christian Democratic Union in the Soviet zone.

From their interference it must be concluded that there was no longer any possibility of taking the democratic way by pursuing an independent policy in the Soviet Zone, he said.

He said that it was impossible to continue the Union's policy in the eastern zone of Germany. He would remain in Berlin, where he would serve the re-birth of Germany.

"From the very start the Christian Democratic Union opposed the tendencies prevailing in the eastern zone aiming at Marxism and totalitarian unity," Dr. Kaiser said.

The crisis was reached after the party's refusal to attend the recent People's Congress summoned by the Soviet Union Party.

"By the interference of the Soviet Military Administration this crisis entered the stage which forced me and Herr Ernst Lemmer to make a public statement," Dr. Kaiser added.—Reuter.

Funeral Procession Attacked

JEWISH LEADER'S NARROW ESCAPE

Jerusalem, Dec. 24.—British Tommies fought today against Arabs who attacked highway traffic north of Jerusalem, and Arab bullets raked a Jewish funeral procession on the sacred Mount of the Ascension.

A turbaned Arab in a green sweater, led the high attackers in a wild exchange of fire with a British convoy, Army sources said. The convoy blasted the hillsides over Bab el Wad where Arab attackers' bullets wounded a Swedish journalist and eight Jews this morning.

Arab casualties were unknown in the highway duel. One British officer was wounded. Army sources said the convoy swept the attackers' position with 10,000 rounds.

Mr. David Ben-Gurion, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, was reported to have been a passenger in one of the convoy cars under attack. Snipers fired on the funeral procession on the Mount of the Ascension for Robert Stern, English-born Jewish journalist who was killed on Sunday by Arab bullets. Many cars turned back under the fire as the procession neared the Jewish cemetery, near an Arab village.

Arab bands roamed the countryside, attacking freight trains as well as road traffic. Arabs seized a five-car cargo of cement in one attack last night. Another freight train was held this morning, but officials said the attackers left empty-handed.—Associated Press.

JEWISH REQUESTS

London, Dec. 23.—Jewish leaders urged Britain to step up Jewish immigration into Palestine immediately and to withdraw armed Arab formations from the area in the Holy Land which will make up the new Jewish state.

Both official British and Jewish sources reported that the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Arthur Creech-Jones, had promised governmental consideration.

A Jewish Agency spokesman said Mr. Creech-Jones was asked to: Withdraw the Arab Legion and Trans-Jordan Frontier Force armed formations from the areas scheduled to become Jewish Palestine.

Recognise the existence of Jewish settlement police and allow Jewish communities in the rural areas to protect themselves.

Sanction the arming of Jewish food convoys.

Step up immigration into the Jewish areas of Palestine immediately from the present fixed quota of 1,500 monthly.

Facilitate the implementation of the United Nations decision to set up Arab and Jewish states in Palestine next year by closer co-operation with the Jewish local and national authorities.

The Jewish leaders charged that presence of armed Arab units in Jewish areas "provoked" the inhabitants.

Meanwhile, official British sources said it is "almost certain" the 10,000 unauthorised Jewish immigrants held in Cyprus camps will be allowed to enter Palestine legally by May 15 when Britain will surrender her mandate to the UN.—Associated Press.

IMMIGRANTS ARRIVE

Jerusalem, Dec. 23.—The two-masted Haganah schooner, "You Won't Forget Us," carrying about 950 Jewish illegal immigrants—including about 150 children—and a Royal Naval boarding party quietly entered Haifa Harbour today escorted by a tug.

British destroyers had intercepted the ship yesterday about 105 miles south-west of Haifa.

First to disembark were three men and a woman, said to be foreign correspondents. The police detained them, Jewish sources reported.

A number of stretcher cases were taken to hospital.

The refugees, who came from Europe and included two babies born on board, were transported quietly to be taken to Cyprus. They had been at sea for about a fortnight and six days ago were battered by a storm.

In Jerusalem's walled old city this afternoon Jews, Arabs and the police were involved in a gun-battle

RICE FOR BRITAIN

Washington, Dec. 23.—The International Emergency Food Council, breaking for the first time its rule barring all rice imports to Europe tonight allocated 24,500 tons of rice to Britain.

The Council described its action as a "temporary exception" covering the first six months of 1948.

The allocations were: Austria 4,000 tons, Belgium 4,500 tons, Britain 24,500 tons, Czechoslovakia 5,000 tons, France 10,000 tons, Greece 4,000 tons, Holland 5,000 tons, Poland 2,000 tons.

The rice will come from Burma, Siam, Brazil, Ecuador, Egypt and the United States.

The allocations were made in response to repeated requests from European countries for small quantities of rice for special purposes, including child feeding and hospital use.—Reuter.

AMERICAN PACT WITH PERSIA

Details Given To UN

New York, Dec. 23.—The United States, acting under its "open diplomatic policy," has reported to the United Nations the details of a pact signed with Persia at Teheran in October, under which a United States military mission will assist in "enhancing the efficiency of the Persian Army."

The pact includes a clause which prevents military experts of other powers from dealing with Persian Army affairs without the consent of the United States.

The agreement is effective from October 6, 1947, to March 20, 1949.

The Persian Government has the right to extend the agreement if it wishes and it can be terminated by either government at any time on a written notice that the government considers it necessary "due to domestic disturbances or foreign hostilities."

The duties of the United States mission will be to advise and assist the Persian Ministry of War and the subordinate sections of the Persian General Staff on organization, administrative principles and training methods.

Advice on tactical and strategic plans or operations against a foreign enemy are excluded from the mission's tasks.

TAX-FREE SALARIES

The pact also provides that mission members will be paid by Persia in American currency and not be taxed by Persia. The Persian Government will also pay part of the living expenses of the mission and one-third of its transport costs.

In conclusion, the agreement, which was signed by Mr. George V. Allen, the American Ambassador to Persia, and the Persian Minister of War, stated: "So long as this agreement, with its extension thereof is in effect, the Persian Government shall not engage the services of any personnel of any other foreign government for duties of any nature connected with the Persian Army, except by agreement between the two governments."

Members of the United States mission will assume neither command nor staff responsibilities in the Persian Army.

They may, however, make such official inspections and investigations as may be necessary and approved by the Persian Ministry of War and directed by the chief of the mission.

OFFICIAL CASUALTIES

Jerusalem, Dec. 23.—It was officially announced that in Palestine, since the United Nations voted for partition, had claimed 280 dead and 804 persons more had been wounded.

An official casualty list of 864 persons broke down fatalities as: Arabs 133, Jews 107, British Army 8, British police 1, Arab Legion 1, Spanish priest 1, Arab Legion 1.

The list said that in the last 11 months of 1947 casualties were 82 Britons killed and 275 wounded, 31 Arabs killed and 84 wounded, 49 Jews killed and 83 wounded.

Responsible quarters estimated that nearly 250,000 shots were fired and 10,000 bombs and grenades—mostly hand-made—exploded in Palestine in the 11 months before the partition decision.—United Press.

Police Constable Killed

Police Constable Chan Koon-kau, son of Sergeant Chan Pui, court sergeant at the Kowloon Magistrate's court, was killed when he fell off a lorry on which he was travelling yesterday from the New Territories to Kowloon.

He fell when the lorry was taking a bend near the Tai Po Road, Orphanage, crashed to the hospital, he later died from his injuries.

Panama Refuses To Lease Military Bases To U.S.

Panama, Dec. 23.—The National Assembly of the Panamanian Republic late last night refused to ratify the agreement signed on December 2, leasing 13 military bases in the territory of Panama, outside the Canal Zone—the five mile strip, on both sides of the Canal, which had been under United States administration since 1904.

The resolution rejecting the agreement was passed unanimously as a crowded gallery cheered and sang the Panamanian national anthem. Shortly before, Senator Florencio Arosemena, the Foreign Minister, had resigned because of his Party's opposition to it.—Reuter.

TO WITHDRAW TROOPS

Washington, Dec. 23.—The United States is to withdraw "as quickly as possible" all troops from 14 defence bases which the Panama Republic has refused to lease to the United States, the State Department announced here tonight.

The decision was taken following the unanimous rejection by the Panama National Assembly of an agreement which would have allowed the United States to occupy these bases for periods of from five to 10 years.

The United States would have to base the defence of the Panama Canal on facilities inside the Canal Zone.

The announcement by the State Department declared: "In accordance with oral agreements made to the Panamanian Government in the course of negotiations, necessary steps will be taken immediately to evacuate all cities in the Republic of Panama outside the Canal Zone where United States armed forces are now stationed. This withdrawal will be completed as quickly as possible, consistent with the number of personnel and the amount of material involved."

The State Department explained that the United States considered these sites essential to an adequate defence of the Canal but did not want an agreement that was not acceptable to the Panamanian people.

The State Department declared that substantial and repeated concessions had been made during the negotiations on an agreement in an attempt to reconcile Panamanian desires with the defence requirements of the Canal.

STILL FRIENDLY

"Failure to conclude an agreement will not, of course, affect normal friendly relationships between the two countries," the State Department said.

The rejection of the agreement means that United States defence of the Panama Canal will be limited to the facilities available to it within the Canal Zone before United States entry into the second World War.

Earlier today, President Truman summoned his Ambassador to Panama, Brigadier General Frank Hines, to a White House conference as Congressmen claimed that "Communist inspiration" lay behind the Panama Parliament's refusal to approve a new agreement with the United States for the leasing of the 14 bases guarding the Canal.

Military officials here stated that the rejection by the Republic of Panama is a potential threat to United States security—especially to its naval forces.

To face this threat, Mr. Albert Engel, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee on Defence, announced that his body

(Continued on Page 4)

Amendments To Bill Will Mean Loss Of Revenue

Paris, Dec. 23.—The French Government will lose about 20 percent of revenue it expected from the special anti-inflation levy by amendments to it decreed by the National Assembly during the debate of the measure.

The original estimate was to raise 150,000 million francs. The cost of the concession made by the Government was put at about 30,000 million francs.

On the other hand, the Government has in principle agreed to reduce civil and military estimates for next year by ten percent at the special request of the Finance Commission of the National Assembly.

This would theoretically save rather more than the amount conceded on the special levy.

Surprise was caused when the Assembly adopted the proposal to apply the levy to salaries exceeding 450,000 francs instead of 250,000 as

at the same time, it is expected that another upward revision of wages is under way, which would amount in general to an increase of 23 per cent, including, however, 500 francs recently decreed by the Government as special cost of living allowance to all workers, irrespective of their grade.

Throughout the debate, the Government has been hard pressed by de Gaulle deputies. It remains to be seen, when the dust of the parliamentary fight has died down, exactly what remains of the original governmental plan to stop inflation.

Even before the debate started and apart from considerable concessions already made, the Government rejected in advance certain still more drastic proposals of the Finance Minister, M. Rene Mayer. One of these, which never saw the light of day, was a proposal to issue cards—for a fee—entitling the holder to buy himself certain alcoholic drinks.—Reuter.

TRAIN COLLISION DEATH TOLL

Newwed, near Coblenz, Dec. 23.—Official investigators late this afternoon put the death toll in last night's train accident here at 40 dead and 99 injured, with at least 60 percent of the latter in serious condition.—United Press.

"The Yearling"
 starring
GREGORY PECK
JANE WYMAN
 IN
 TECHNICOLOR

AS-A M-G-M PICTURE

NEXT CHANGE, SCOOP OF THE CENTURY!
"THE BEGINNING OF THE END"



YOUR UNCLE NAT FACES CHRISTMAS (OR CAN HE?)

Letter from a turkey

can 'worn thus would be most distinguished, or a cap the size of a haecp. crown, perched above the car.

When there was no Christmas Day

Monty Sends Greetings

[illegible]

BY THE WAY • by *Beachcomber*

pelice Bohem! No one says when peace has been formally signed.

Is-n't that a law-yer's quib-ble, dad-dy, in the case of our German pris-oners? The war is ov-er.

Yes.

Ye-haps, dad-dy, we are hang-ing on to them so that they can watch Dem-o-cr-a-cy at work.

Well, I don't know what you mean by that. But I do know

exposes the top of the sock. Since pender makers are delighted, since no man will like to go about with his socks down to his heels, it follows that every body must take to little pimple-hats, perchees on the forehead? A tiny bowler worn thus would be most dis-gustful, or a cap made of half-

the head of a pig, the ear

NANCY Business Is at a Standstill



Women BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed for Lois Leeds.

Add pearls to a black dress, says Lois Leeds.

"DEAR LOIS LEEDS"

"Dear Lois Leeds—Due to a childhood accident, the third finger of my left hand was amputated. I am to be married next month. Where should I wear my wedding ring?"

—A FIANCEE—

As the wearing of the ring on the third finger of the left hand is simply traditional, I would wear it on the second finger of the right hand. You could, of course, wear it on the second finger of your left hand, but it is an awkward finger for a ring and would call attention to your disability. I would use the right hand. I talked with a clergyman on this and that is also his advice.

"Dear Lois Leeds—I have a black lace dress, floor length. I am 21 years old and will attend my sister's wedding in January. What should I wear with this dress and should I make any changes?—MRS. L."

Shorten the dress to thirteen inches from the floor. Wear a small black hat with lots of veiling. Wear pearls and pale blue gloves.

"Dear Lois Leeds—I am to be married in a coffee-brown suit. Should I wear a hat? The wedding is to be in the minister's parlour at four P. M.—SUE."

Yes, a hat is important to that well-groomed look. Soft Green or Ruby-tinted is lovely with Coffee-Brown. A lapel corsage, with accent on flowers to match your hat colour, will be effective.

"Dear Lois Leeds—I am a blue-eyed blonde and so is my husband. Would it be in good taste to have blue cloth suits made alike, of the same material? We go everywhere together in the car."

—RANCH WIFE—
Yes, husband-and-wife matching outfits look very attractive, but be sure that your suit has a skirt, not slacks!

Minute Makeup by GABRIELLE



Learn to apply your foundation evenly. That's the real basis of makeup secrets. If you use a cream blend and smooth it over the surface of the skin. Then, after perfect blending, press a cosmetic tissue over the skin. If you use liquids, apply them with a bit of damp absorbent cotton and remove surplus lotion with a tissue. If it's cake makeup that delights you, apply it with damp cotton. Stroke and blend and then press lightly with a tissue.

Fascinating Fur



Sketch by Virginia of a January outfit of three-quarter length black lamb coat whose apron pockets form a muff. Head-dress is a sheer Shetland wool fascinator, and the ankle socks, of pure angora, are as cosy as they look.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"I'm glad to be home! When, after only three weeks, relatives say they can't think of any place else to take you, it's time to leave!"

U.N. ASSEMBLY MAY MEET IN GENEVA

Geneva, seat of the ill-fated League of Nations, may once again become the hub of international diplomacy.

The United Nations General Assembly will hold its September 1948 meeting in Europe. A UN committee will decide soon in what city the meeting will be held.

The choice appears to lie between Paris and Geneva.

As the seat of the newly created U.N. European headquarters, Geneva has some powerful arguments on its side. The chief points are the ready-made facilities, to which the UN fell heir from the League of Nations.

On the other hand, some see a danger in a U.N. meeting where the League expired. Additionally, Switzerland's hard currency—the hardest in the world—makes the place less desirable for dollar-starved countries.

The Palais des Nations, former League of Nations building, and its contents were transferred to the U.N. last summer in the final liquidation of the League's assets. Later it

developed into a centre for the UN's economic and technical work.

Since summer, the Palais has been the meeting place for some 15 conferences, and has become the permanent headquarters of a number of U.N. specialised agencies.

Such bodies have met in Geneva as the Preparatory Committee of the Conference on Trade and Employment, the Economic Commission for Europe, International Labour Conference, Food and Agricultural Organisation, International Passport Conference, International Health Organisation, Aviation Conference, and a number of smaller groups.

Excellent Meeting Centre

The U.N. Commissions on Greece and Palestine wrote their reports at the Palais des Nations. The Economic Commission for Europe, with its various specialised committees, has permanent headquarters there.

With full ownership of the former League properties, the U.N. acquired a meeting centre comparable to the Versailles Palace in dimensions.

The Palais was completed in 1938 after nine years of work. It covers an area of 193,752 square feet, with a perimeter of well over one mile.

Built in a Greek key pattern, the Palais centres around the large assembly hall, with a seating capacity of 1,540 delegates and 276 advisers, galleries for the public and press, with adjoining press working rooms, booths for radio reporters and photographers, and a telephone system for simultaneous translation.

Four Blocks

Nine committee rooms on either side of the assembly hall have seating capacities ranging from 50 to 500 seats.

Linked with the assembly hall through marble halls is the so-called council building, a block with seating accommodation for delegates, secretariat and the press.

The official and ceremonial buildings are complemented by a third block, the administrative group, with 500 offices. The library, built as another adjoining block, is one of Europe's best centres for political study.

EX-NATIVES OF BIKINI STARVING

NEW YORK.

The 161 natives of Bikini atoll, evacuated 140 miles southeast to Rongerik atoll before the atom bomb test in July 1946, are being taken to another atoll because they are in danger of starving.

Investigation reports of unhappiness among the Bikini natives on Rongerik. U.S. Agricultural specialist Dr. Howard MacMillan found them destitute and unable to support themselves on the island's agriculture or fisheries.

Many have been poisoned through eating fish from the lagoon. A disastrous fire destroyed 30 percent of the coconut trees, which retarded already deficient food production for 20 months.

Want To Return

The desperate inhabitants were cutting up palms and eating the palm hearts.

Ujelang, 290 miles southwest of Bikini, is much more lush than either Bikini or Rongerik. The soil is healthy and copra can be produced there. The fishing is excellent.

But it is doubtful if Ujelang will appease the Bikini islanders any more than Rongerik.

Through their chief, Juda, they have pleaded to be returned to Bikini but the waters of the lagoon there are still radioactive.

Model's Secret Marriage

A man who used to sit in the front stalls of the Tivoli Theatre in Sydney and smile at a girl in the ballet, secretly married her after an engagement of five years.

He is Edward Lofberg, 33, Sydney businessman, and the girl is Pat Craig, 23, well-known Sydney model.

Pat Craig was a New South Wales finalist in a beauty contest. She said:

"We planned our wedding for weeks but kept it a secret and did not tell our friends until it was all over."

"We thought it would be much nicer that way."

"My husband and I have known each other for almost nine years and have been engaged for five years."

"I first noticed him in the stalls at the Tivoli while I was dancing."

"He kept coming to the show and always smiled at me."

"One night I worked at a movie ball in Sydney. Ted was there and he made himself known to me."

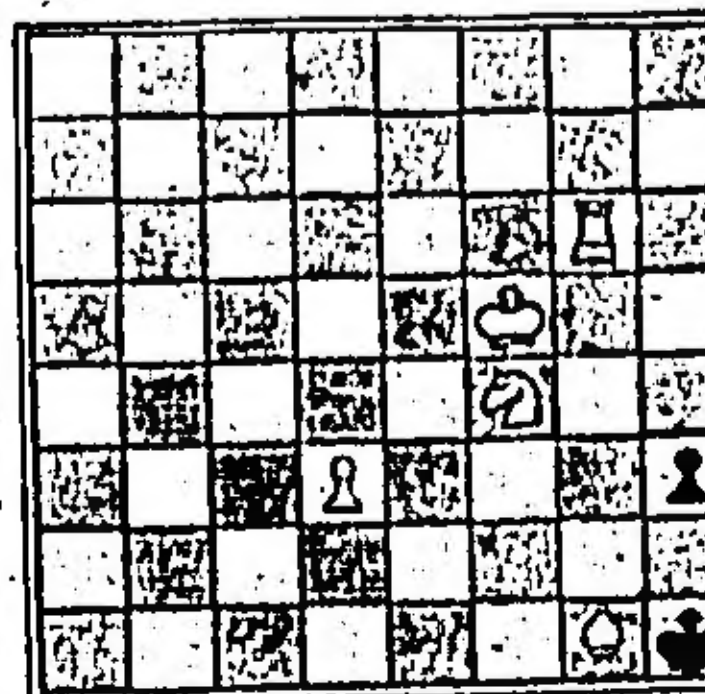
"That is how we met."

"I hope to continue modelling."

CHESS PROBLEM

By H. KUHN

Black 2 pieces.



White, 5 pieces.

White to play and mate in three. Solution to yesterday's problem:

1. Q-Q4, any! 2. Q. or Ki mates.

BACK SEAT AT MEALS

The American Public Health Association has told of a Texan husband and wife, both physicians, who allowed their young daughters free choice of meals and found it worked better than planned diet seasoned with usual parental threats.

From the age of 18 months old, the parents allowed the children to eat by themselves without restriction, on time or behaviour at the table.

The girls, now six and four respectively, have grown and developed normally, with no tooth decay.

The children take about one-third of their food between meals, consisting largely of fruit, raw vegetables, milk.

Sometimes they have huge appetites for weeks, then slacken off for no apparent reason.

Then they go on food fads, eating the same thing at every meal often for two weeks.

At one meal they might concentrate on cucumbers, eggs, or bread, but their stomachs are never upset.

Sometimes they eat dessert in the middle of the meal, but generally avoid mixtures like hash, stew and fancy salads.

Rupert and the Big Bang—1



After school one day Rupert is chatting with his pals Bill Badger and Algy Pug. "Look over there," says Bill. "Why is the master putting Bingo on the head like that? He's making quite a fuss of him." "Bingo's cleverer than any of us," murmurs Rupert. "He's terribly brassy." "All the making favourites," grumbles Algy. "I wonder what it's all about?" As they watch all three feel themselves getting quite jealous.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across
1. Sounds like a fishy fruit mix-ture. (4)
2. A small, round, white, soft, sweet. (4)
3. Expressions of contempt. (4)
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100. A word which makes a tame meal. (4)

10. Made by hand by looping thread. (4)
11. Did they bore for this Spanish river? (4)
12. Said to be a platform. (4)
13. Something round. (4)
14. A word change. (4)
15. Get up to receive the advance! (4)
Down
1. Not minced (anag.). (4)
2. You may once have associated it with treachery. (4)
3. Went ahead. (4)
4. Make a believer who sounds as though he is before the train's fuel carrier. (4)
5. Late pair (anag.), pertaining to whips. (4)
6. Part of the spinal column. (4)
7. Part of this age? (4)
8. Prior out. (4)
9. A word which makes a tame meal. (4)
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Check Your Knowledge

(Answers on Page 4)

1. Name the two largest cities in Italy.
2. What mythological dog had three heads?
3. What is an honorarium?
4. Which is the right bank of a river?
5. From what animals do human beings contract psittacosis?
6. Betsy Trotwood is a character in what novel?

KING'S GRAND XMAS ATTRACTION

TO-DAY at 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.
FIVE SHOWS ON THURSDAY & FRIDAY
At 11.30 a.m., 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

"PICTURE OF THE MONTH"

—LOUELLA PARSONS

Something new in exciting musical romance!
The love story of a girl who played the world's most dangerous game!

M-G-M's
BIGGEST
MUSICAL
SPECTACLE IN
TECHNICOLOR!

FIESTA

Where They Live and Love Dangerously!

Esther WILLIAMS
AKIN TAMIROFF • CTO CHARISSE • JOHN CARROLL
MARY ASTOR • FORTUNO BONANOVA
AND INTRODUCING
RICARDO MONTALBAN

New Romantic Star! He's fiery in
fights and dances, but at his best
in love-making!

PHOTOGRAPHED IN TECHNICOLOR
Original Screen Play by George Bruce
and Lester Cole
Directed by RICHARD THORPE
Produced by JACK CUMMINGS



— ALSO LATEST METRO-NEWS. —
Please Book Your Seats In Advance

Lee Theatre

ADVANCE BOOKING OFFICE—

ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL.
BOOKING HOURS: 11.00 A.M. TO 5.30 P.M. DAILY

SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.10, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.



Bigger than BIG!
Brighter than BRIGHT!
Newer than NEW!

GROUCHO MARX
CARMEN MIRANDA
ANDY RUSSELL
STEVE COCHRAN
GLORIA JEAN

Sam Coslow MUSICAL PRODUCTION
COPACABANA

with the COPIES of the 14 Most Beautiful Girls in America and the Nation's
Top Nightingale! LOUIS SOREL • ABIG GREEN • EARL HUNTER
Directed by ALFRED E. GREEN
(A member of the Famous Players)

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES ON 25TH & 26TH DEC.
AT 11.00 A.M. ONLY!

"THE THIEF OF BAGDAD"

IN TECHNICOLOR!
AT REDUCED PRICES!

ALHAMBRA THEATRE

TO-DAY ONLY AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.
THE RECORD-BREAKING CHINESE PICTURE!

"SECRET AGENT NO. 1"

Starring AW YEUNG SHA-FAI • HOR BUN
DIALOGUE IN MANDARIN
OPENING TO-MORROW

WARNERS HIT A BRAND NEW TYPE IN MUSICALS!

"THE TIME THE PLACE AND THE GIRL"

IN TECHNICOLOR!!!
STARRING BENNETT MORRAN • JACK CARSON
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Blonde Elected "Miss France"

Paris, Dec. 23.—A 22-year-old blonde, Yvonne Vieux, was hailed as "Miss France" today, having been elected last night by a Paris audience from a line-up of 24 French beauties in the Palais de Chaillot.

She will be clothed, receive beauty treatment, get fresh handbags and all feminine accessories from leading Paris beauty and fashion houses for the next year, as well as a car and a bicycle.—Reuter.

CHRISTMAS GLOOM IN GERMANY

Frankfurt, Dec. 23.—This Christmas will be one of gloom in this country because of the failure of steps towards Germany's re-entry into the family of nations.

Last year's holiday season was cheered by prospects of success at the Moscow conference.

This year's, coming just after the failure in London, marks nothing but the close of one unsuccessful year and the beginning of what promises to be another.—United Press.

Czechs' Last Fling

Prague, Dec. 23.—Czechoslovakia's Christmas will be a last fling of comparatively luxury before the Czechs buckle down to a hard and hungry winter.

Most Czechs will manage to have fairly generous holiday meals, including the traditional Christmas Eve fried carp, and goose with dumplings and sauerkraut for Christmas Day, candy and cookies strung on the cone-like tree, and an orange for everyone who has not gobbled up his ration of two distributed last week.

However, the January ration cards, distributed before Christmas, will give Czechs their lowest monthly rations since shortly after the war, while on December 27 a heavy luxury tax goes into effect on hundreds of articles, ranging from 10 percent on liquor to 100 percent on some luxuries.—United Press.

Fortunate Swedes

Stockholm, Dec. 23.—Swedes will celebrate this Christmas warmer, better-fed and better-dressed than in any year since the war. Rations of meat, bread, butter, coffee, tea, cocoa and soup are ample, but electricity has been rationed for the first time and this has made the traditional illuminations and decorations impossible.—United Press.

Her Christmas Mail

London, Dec. 23.—Mrs K. Howe of Colchester received today with her Christmas post a letter posted in 1911 at Ipswich, 18 miles away, telling her of the birth of a niece now 36 years old.—Reuter.

Coalminers Win A New Victory

London, Dec. 23.—British coalminers won another victory in the battle to re-gain the pre-war output last week when they produced 4,400,000 tons, the highest weekly total since July, 1940.

It was the ninth week that miners had topped the four million mark, and it left only 2,100,000 tons of coal to be mined to reach the National Coal Board's target figure of 100 million tons for the 52 weeks ending December 31.

The Christmas holidays, however, are expected to reduce this week's output.—Reuter.

ROUND-UP OF SPORT:

SOUTH AUSTRALIA LOSING TO NEW SOUTH WALES

Adelaide, Dec. 23.—Despite a patient innings of 108 in three hours 41 minutes by their captain, Phil Ridings, and a stylish 72 in two and a quarter hours by Test player Ron Hamence, South Australia failed by eight runs to save the follow-on today in their Sheffield Shield match with New South Wales.

South Australia, 150 for three overnight, were out for 352 in reply to the New South Wales' total of 509. Following on 157 runs behind, South Australia were 27 for two at the close.

Play started an hour late because of the wet state of the bowler's approach at the southern end of the wicket from which Miller, the New South Wales fast bowler, bowled at only half speed.

Ray Lindwall, the Test fast bowler, did not field after tea because of an injured leg.—Reuter.

INDIA'S HOCKEY WIN

Nairobi, Dec. 23.—The All-India hockey team which is touring East Africa won their first two matches in Nairobi when they beat the Asian Sports Association by 1-0 and later scored an overwhelming victory over the Hockey Association of Kenya by 9-1.—Reuter.

ENGLAND'S RUGGERITES

London, Dec. 23.—England's Rugby Union team, containing three new internationals, to oppose Australia at Twickenham on January 3, was announced today as follows: S. Newman, (Oxford University); R. Guest, (Waterloo); N. Bennett, (United Services); E. Scott, (Redruth); D. Swarbrick, (Oxford Uni-

PASSIVE BRITISH POLICY TOWARDS LIBYA CRITICISED

London, Dec. 23.—Mahdi Bennouna, delegate of the North African independence movement to the United Nations, told a press conference in London today that Britain's passive policy towards Libya might result in a disaster equal to that of Palestine.

FENG TRYING TO CONFUSE, SAYS EMBASSY

Washington, Dec. 23.—A Chinese Embassy spokesman, in an interview with the United Press, today charged that General Feng Yu-shiang was "trying to confuse the American public" by asserting that Premier Chiang Kai-shek had instructed him to study water conservation despite the fact that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek ordered him home for making speeches against the Nanking Government.

The spokesman claimed that there was no truth in Feng's assertion that Chiang Kai-shek had advanced him money for the first six months of 1948 here. He said Feng merely had some funds left from the sum initially advanced to him by the Chinese Finance Relief Bureau, which is in charge of conservancy projects.

The spokesman said that Feng has received two notices that his mission is at an end and he must return home. He said the first notice, which was delivered by the Embassy here a few days ago, was that from Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, and the second was sent him directly from the Finance Relief Bureau which arranged his trip to the United States.

He said it was believed here that Premier Chiang Kai-shek would set the record straight by himself, repudiating Feng's assertions.—United Press.

FEATHERWEIGHT BOUT

Lewiston, Maine, Dec. 23.—World featherweight champion Willie Pep outpointed Alvarez Estrada of Mexico in a 10-round bout here last night.—Associated Press.

Moscow Thinks It's A Secret

Moscow, Dec. 23.—The Russian press intimated today that the United States is transferring troops from Italy to the American zones of Austria and Germany.

A Tass dispatch from Vienna said: "There exists the opinion—reinforced by recent reports in French newspapers—that the United States is transferring troops to Austria and Germany after withdrawing them from Italy."

It is no secret that some officers and men in the Mediterranean theatre of operations transferred to other European assignments before the occupation of Italy ended on December 14. Dispatches from Italy during the autumn told of the movement.—Associated Press.

Home For Christmas

Camp Klimer, New Jersey, Dec. 23.—Army authorities are speeding proceedings today of 1,300 soldiers to the last U.S. occupation troops from Italy—in an effort to get them home by Christmas.—Associated Press.

"A partition of Libya is beginning to be imminent," he said.

"Britain is bearing a great responsibility with her 'do nothing' attitude, because her troops still occupy Libya. If this country is to be returned to Italy, it is Britain who will have to do it and hand over the administration to the Italians."

"To the Libyans, to us North Africans, and to the Arabs as a whole, Britain must say her word," Bennouna said. "The American attitude on Libya was affected by a natural pro-Italian feeling. The Truman doctrine and the Marshall plan to combat Communism in Europe are aimed at strengthening Italy—even at the expense of the Libyans—he said.

Russia, too, was using the Libyan question for a double purpose. Russia opposed the return of African colonies to Italy so as to weaken that country and drive it into the Eastern bloc.

Russia also wanted to gain the sympathies of the colonised population by advocating their liberation. Bennouna added that all the North African countries would do everything possible now and in the future to preserve Libya as an Arab country and to defend it against partition or against "any other kind of aggressive solution."

Tripoli, Cyrenaica and Fezzan could never be separated as they were the three complementary parts of one economic unity. The amputation of one would make the existence of the others impossible, he asserted.—Reuter.

INDONESIA STOP WAR PROPOSAL

Batavia, Dec. 23.—The Security Council Commission on Indonesia today issued a proposed plan to implement the cease-fire on this colonial battlefield where the Dutch and the Indonesian Republicans have been warring for months.

The Commission proposed that each side present a map defining what they believed their territories and the area for the truce zone, presenting their arguments for each. In case of controversy, it was proposed that representatives of each side agree to a plan to carry out the United Nations cease-fire request of August 4, each party should have its troops stand fast and cease fire in their respective positions.

A Republican memorandum, made public at the same time, agreed to the proposal.—United Press.

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"Come, come, Jones, don't be so sceptical; of course there's a Santa Claus!"

Secret Inquiry Bares Egyptian Leftist Plot

Cairo, Dec. 23.—A secret inquiry into an alleged Egyptian Army plot against the Chief of Staff, General Ibrahim Attallah Pasha, arising out of the arrest of 12 officers and non-commissioned officers a month ago, established the existence within the Army of a leftist movement called "the Extremist National Socialist Society," according to the findings of the inquiry published at length in Egyptian newspapers today.

DEWEY TIPPED AS PRESIDENT

Washington, Dec. 23.—Governor Thomas E. Dewey, of New York, will win the 1948 Republican Presidential nomination and will defeat President Truman in the November election, according to a poll of 57 Washington political writers by Look magazine.

The poll showed that 20 of 57 correspondents believe Dewey will be the GOP nominee. Gen. Eisenhower got 13 votes, Senator Robert Taft 12 and Senator Arthur Vandenberg 5. Gen. MacArthur was not mentioned.

All correspondents picked Mr. Truman as the Democratic nominee, and 25 predicted Defence Secretary James Forrestal will be his running mate despite Forrestal's statement that he would not be a candidate and could not be drafted for political office.

The correspondents overwhelmingly predicted a Republican victory. Nineteen picked Mr. Dewey to win while only five writers thought Mr. Truman would be elected.

Forty-three correspondents thought the United States would move closer to peace next year, 13 thought towards war, while one was undecided.—United Press.

RUHR COAL AGREEMENT

Paris, Dec. 23.—The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs today announced the conclusion of a tripartite coal agreement among the Western Allies, increasing quantities of the Ruhr coal mine in 1948. The agreement was reached by the United States, Britain and France after the breakdown of the London Big Four conference.

The Foreign Ministry, in a communique, also announced that representatives of the three nations would participate in further examination of the critical Ruhr coal situation in the future. Efforts will be made to increase production and boost the export of coal.—United Press.

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Honoured For Brave Conduct

London, Dec. 23.—Men and women in the Far East were honoured today by the King for bravery and valuable services during the war in a list of awards published in London today.

A medical officer in the Medical Services of Malaya, Dr. William Archibald Balhetch, has been made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

Three others have been made Members of the same Order. They are Yook Bok Choon, Tutor in Surgery at the College of Medicine in Singapore who performed valuable services at the Tan Tock Seng Hospital during the Japanese occupation; Mrs. Norma Chown, a Briton living in Fernk, who is honoured for services to follow-in-ternees in Malaya during enemy occupation, and Major Fred Harvey, of the Salvation Army, for services to fellow internees at Ayer Hitam camp, on Penang Island.

A Singapore hospital assistant, Henry Edward Klynne, has been awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division) for services during enemy occupation in Singapore.

The Medal has also been awarded to Badur Bin Shamsuddin, corporal in the Malaya Union Police Force, for services to the forces during military operations in Southeast Asia prior to September 2, 1945.

The King's Recommendation for Brave Conduct during military operations in Southeast Asia during the same period has been awarded to M. Bin Rahman, a Singapore smallholder.—Reuter.

DETENTION OF POW

PROTEST FROM RED CROSS

Geneva, Dec. 23.—The International Committee of the Red Cross has communicated with the governments and national Red Cross societies, protesting against the detention of prisoners of war by the victorious powers two years after hostilities have ceased.

The measures taken by the victorious powers, the Committee stated, give no grounds to hope that the prisoners will regain their freedom before January 1, 1948.

"The capture of prisoners of war has only a single aim—to prevent enemy combatants from taking up arms once more," a communique issued by the International Committee said.

"Captivity today," the communique added, "is apparently maintained on account of the scarcity of labour in the detaining countries. It therefore becomes a compulsory labour service for ex-servicemen, who are the nationals of countries compelled to furnish war reparations."—Reuter.

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PHONE 56315
2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.
TO-DAY, ONE DAY ONLY

WHAT A ROGUE...
WHAT A RASCAL...
WHAT A RIOT!
BOB JOAN
HOPE CAULFIELD in
"Monsieur Beaucaire"

TO-MORROW DEC. 25TH.
Grand Christmas Attraction
Fun and Laughter
For Young and Old
Stan Oliver
LAUREL HARDY
in
"THE BIG NOISE"
Special Matinee At 11.30 A.M.

They Gave their Lives.

We, too, may give through the HONGKONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Send your donation to the Hon. Treasurers
Lowe, Bingham & Matthews
Mercantile Bank Bldg.

NOTICE
UNRRA CLOSURE

All concerned are hereby notified that from 1st January, 1948, operational expenses incurred by CNRRA Kowloon Supply Office for handling and storing cargo shipped by UNRRA will be the responsibility of CNRRA. This includes any pre-shipment tackle expenses.

R. B. GOODWIN,
Closure Officer.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers are requested to note that not less than 24 hours notice prior to the day of publication should be given for all commercial display advertisements, change of copy etc. Notices and Classified Advertisements will be received up till 4.30 p.m. for the following day.

Printed and published by Frederick Percy Franklin for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3 Wyndham Street, City of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong

ORIENTAL

SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30-5.15-7.20-9.20 P.M.

M-G-M Has starred LASSIE now because here is the most thrilling and heart-warming adventure she has ever brought to the Screen!

Lassie hit! in TECHNICOLOR

COURAGE OF Lassie

TAYLOR MORGAN DRAKE

SPECIAL MORNING SHOWS FOR HOLIDAYS!

XMAS DAY: "DARE DEVILS OF THE WEST" First Chapter

BOXING DAY: Final Chapter